



MICHIGAN'S GRADUATED DRIVER LICENSING:

A Guide for Parents



WHAT IS NEW

Michigan's Vertical License for Teen Drivers

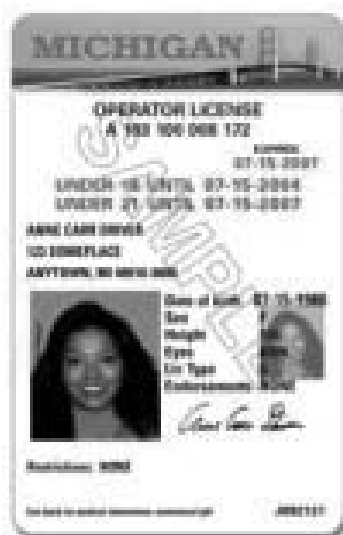
As of July 1, 2003, drivers under the age of 21 are being issued a vertical license, rather than the traditional horizontal-style license. The new design gives retailers and law enforcement an instant visual cue to help prevent minors from illegally purchasing age-restricted products such as alcohol and tobacco.

Public Acts 553 and 554 of 2002, which implements the vertical driver's license program, were enacted with the enthusiastic support of the Michigan Department of State and a broad coalition of government, retail, safety and law enforcement organizations.

The specially formatted license includes several advanced security measures. It has a more tamper-resistant design to prevent alterations and forgeries. Dates when the license-holder turns ages 18 and 21 are clearly printed on the card as well.

The vertical licenses are issued when young drivers receive their first license, or when an existing license is renewed or replaced. It will take about five years before the new license is fully integrated into the population. **Driver's licenses with the horizontal format remain valid until the expiration date.**

Like the Graduated Driver Licensing program, Michigan's vertical license initiative is another example of the state's commitment to protecting the health and safety of young residents.



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Please note: All of the following information is also available on the Michigan Department of State Internet Web site—www.Michigan.gov/sos

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Welcome to Michigan's Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) program. This booklet provides you with easy-to-understand, step-by-step explanations of GDL. Each section contains a checklist of helpful hints and points to remember to guide you and your teen through the GDL process.

The goal of GDL is to reduce crashes, serious injuries and traffic-related deaths involving teen drivers and their passengers. Concerns about the high rate of traffic crashes among teens led to its development by state legislators, traffic safety experts, educators and parents. Through GDL, teen drivers gain the knowledge, skill and experience needed to develop safe driving habits.

WHAT IS GRADUATED DRIVER LICENSING?

Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) is a driver licensing system designed to teach teens to drive by gradually increasing their driving privileges as they advance through the system. GDL consists of two segments of driver education instruction and three licensing levels.

The driver education course is made up of Segment 1, which consists of a minimum of 24 hours of classroom instruction and a minimum of 6 hours of behind-the-wheel training, and Segment 2, which consists of a minimum of 6 hours of classroom instruction, designed to provide teens with defensive driving skills.

The three licensing levels in GDL are: a supervised learner's license (Level 1 License), an intermediate license that limits unsupervised nighttime driving (Level 2 License), and a full-privilege driver license (Level 3 License) issued after a teen driver has successfully completed all previous instructional and driving requirements. GDL license levels 1 and 2 have certain restrictions to limit teens' driving exposure to high-risk situations and help protect them while they're learning to drive.

GDL Suspensions

Teens ticketed and convicted of violating the restrictions of their GDL licenses will be referred for a driver assessment reexamination by the Michigan Department of State. Depending on the nature of the

violation, the department may suspend the teen's license for 30 days up to a year. Any suspension action taken against the license may also significantly delay a teen's advancement through GDL.

GETTING STARTED IN GDL



Choosing a Driver Education Program

Driver education programs are provided by both public school districts and private driving schools. When selecting a school, it's important to consider the school's reputation, program cost and any contract requirements. For a list of the driver education programs offered in your area, contact your public school district or look in your telephone book's yellow pages under "Driving Instruction."

Driver Education for Teens with Disabilities

Most Michigan public schools offer Segment 1 and Segment 2 of the driver education course. Students identified with disabilities under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and special education students, are entitled to enroll in the driver education course offered within their school district. Students are entitled to accommodations (at no expense to the parent) to minimize the effects of their disabilities as long as their disabilities do not prevent them from driving safely (e.g. seizure conditions, blindness, etc.). Parents and school districts may agree upon appropriate accommodations in a written plan developed by the parents and school personnel. For additional information regarding accommodations for students with disabilities and driver education, please telephone Michigan Department of Education's Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Help Line at 1-888-320-8384, or the Michigan Assistive Technology Resource at 1-800-274-7426.

BEGINNING DRIVER EDUCATION

Segment 1 Driver Education

Requirements

- 14 year 8 months of age
- Permission of parent/guardian

Availability

- Public School District (may require a fee)
- Driver Training School (fee required)

Minimum Course Content

- Minimum of 24 hours of classroom instruction
- Minimum of 6 hours behind-the-wheel driving experience

Restrictions

- May drive only with driver education instructor unless school issued limited parent driving permit

Congratulations! Your daughter or son is 14 years, 8 months old and is eligible to begin driver education. As a parent or legal guardian, your first step begins by granting permission to your teen to enroll in a Segment 1 driver education course approved by the Michigan Department of Education. You have the right to postpone enrolling your teen in driver education if you feel he or she is not ready to take on the responsibilities of learning to drive. Segment 1 of driver education consists of a minimum of 24 hours of classroom instruction and 6 hours of behind-the-wheel instruction with a driver education instructor. Segment 1 is designed to prepare teens to acquire a Level 1 Learner's License. Upon successful completion of Segment 1 and the Segment 1 Knowledge Test, developed by Department of Education and Department of State, a green driver education *Segment 1 Certificate of Completion* will be issued to your teen. The *Segment 1 Certificate of*

Completion is not a permit to drive and cannot be treated as a driver license.

After completing Segment 1, your teen is ready to apply for a Level 1 License. Both you and your teen must go to a Secretary of State branch office to apply for the Level 1 License.

Points to remember:

- Contact your teen's school well in advance of when you wish your teen to start GDL. Failure to apply in advance may delay enrollment until the next session. Both public school districts and private driving schools provide driver education courses.
- Your teen must be at least 14 years, 8 months to begin Segment 1 of driver education.
- Obtain date, time and location for the Segment 1 driver education course.
- Obtain date for GDL Parents Meeting (if school offers one).
- Follow enrollment procedure for the school you choose.
- Notify the school if your teen has any physical or medical conditions that might affect his or her driving.
- Vision screening will be **required** prior to your teen's approval to begin the behind-the-wheel instruction as part of Segment 1 of the driver education course.
- Obtain a vision screening from a health professional or contact the school to see if one is provided.
- Obtain a certified copy of your teen's birth certificate—hospital birth certificates are not acceptable. Certified birth certificates are available from the county clerk's office of the county where your teen was born. A Michigan state identification card or moped license will also be accepted.
- **Make plans to ensure your teen has safe transportation to and from the Segment 1 driver education course.**
- **The Driver Education *Segment 1 Certificate of Completion* is not a permit to drive and cannot be treated as a driver license.**

MICHIGAN DRIVER EDUCATION				A 000011	
SEGMENT 1				CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION	
This is to certify that:					
First	Middle	Last		DATE	
Date of Birth					
Month	Day	Year			
has successfully completed Segment 1 of a driver education course in compliance with Section 310e, P.A. 387 of 1996. The instruction was provided by:				Driver Education Instructor	
NAME OF SCHOOL				Authorized School Official	
CITY					
DRIVER EDUCATION CODE					

THIS IS NOT A DRIVER LICENSE. THE STUDENT MUST OBTAIN A LEVEL 1 LICENSE FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO DRIVE A VEHICLE.

(Not shown in actual colors)

PREPARING FOR THE LEVEL 1 LEARNER'S LICENSE

Level 1 Learner's License

Requirements

- Must have a *Certificate of Completion* for Segment 1
- Must have a certified copy of birth certificate
- Parent/guardian signature required on application
- Pass vision screening required by Secretary of State

Availability

- Obtain Level 1 License at a Secretary of State branch office
- May only drive with licensed parent/guardian or designated adult age 21 or older
- Parent/guardian or designated adult must sit in front seat
- If driving with a designated adult, driver should carry a signed letter of authorization from parent/guardian

It's important to obtain the Level 1 License as soon as your teen finishes Segment 1 of driver education. GDL requires your teen to hold a Level 1 License for at least 180 days from the date of issuance (found on the upper left corner of the Level 1 License), before applying for a Level 2 License. The longer you delay in obtaining the Level 1 License for your teen, the longer your teen must wait to apply for a Level 2 License.

Points to remember:

- Bring the following to a Secretary of State branch office when applying for a Level 1 License:
 - The green *Certificate of Completion for Segment 1*. The green

Certificate of Completion is not a driver license.

- A certified birth certificate. (A current state identification card or moped license will be accepted if you cannot locate the certified birth certificate.)
- As the parent or legal guardian, you will need to grant written permission on the Level 1 License application for your teen to obtain the license.
- Obtain the following from the branch office staff:
 - A validated Level 1 License. There is no fee.
 - A copy of the *Road Skills Test Study Guide*, which includes the 50-hour driving log for recording all the hours of supervised driving.
 - A list of third-party road testing agencies.
- After the Level 1 License is issued to your teen, you may cancel it at any time if you believe your teen is not ready to drive under supervision. To cancel the Level 1 License, you will need to go to a Secretary of State branch office, turn in the Level 1 License and sign a *Driver License Cancellation* form. If the license is lost, stolen, or unavailable, as a parent, you must sign a certification stating the reason the license is not available.
- Teens who have not been previously licensed will be placed on a minimum three-year probationary period beginning when a Level 1 License is issued. Probation is a separate program from GDL. Please see the back of this booklet for more information about probation.

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YOUR TEENAGER HAS A LEVEL 1 LICENSE: NOW WHAT?

The Level 1 License is a learner's license. It places the greatest restrictions on your teen's driving privileges during the time he or she is beginning to master the fundamental skills necessary to be a competent and safe driver. With a Level 1 License, a teen may operate a motor vehicle only when accompanied by a licensed parent or legal guardian or any licensed driver 21 years of age or older designated by the parent or legal guardian.

As a parent or guardian, it is your responsibility to make sure your teen completes the required supervised driving with you or another licensed adult driver before Segment 2 of driver education begins. If your teen is driving with a designated licensed adult, your teen **should** carry a signed letter of authorization from you.

Now is a good time to develop a *Parent-Teen Safe Driving Contract* with your teen, setting the limits for acceptable and safe driving behavior (see sample contract at back of this booklet). By showing an interest in your teen's progress, asking positive questions and emphasizing the importance of courtesy and good driving skills, you will help your teen become a safe and responsible driver.

Points to remember:

- Contact your insurance agent to verify coverage with a Level 1 License.
- Help your teen develop the habit of always carrying his or her license when driving.
- Prepare the driving log and record all supervised driving time. The *Road Skills Test Study Guide* provides a driving log for your use. For information on how best to structure the behind-the-wheel experience for your teen's benefit, as well as your own, talk to your teen's driver education instructor and check the resource list at the back of this booklet.
- Begin providing supervised driving time with your teen. Your teen must complete a minimum of 30 hours of supervised driving, including a minimum of 2 hours of nighttime driving before beginning Segment 2 of the driver education course. A minimum of 90 days must pass after your teen completes the Segment 1 driver edu-

cation course before he or she can participate in Segment 2. A good rule of thumb is to complete at least 10 hours of supervised driving each month between Segment 1 and Segment 2.

- If you do not want your teen to advance to the next level of licensing, he or she may continue to drive with a Level 1 Learner's License until age 18.

PREPARING FOR SEGMENT 2 OF DRIVER EDUCATION

Segment 2 Driver Education

Requirements

- 30 hours minimum of supervised driving time including a minimum of two hours night driving
- 90 days since completing Segment 1

Availability

- Public School District (may require a fee)
- Driver Training School (fee required)

Minimum Course Content

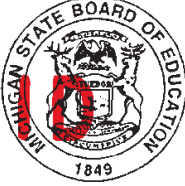
- 6 hours of classroom driver education instruction

To enroll in Segment 2 of the driver education course, a minimum of 90 days must have passed since your teen successfully completed Segment 1. The Department of Education requires that your teen must log at least 30 hours of supervised driving, including 2 hours at night, with a licensed parent, guardian or designated adult age 21 or older before entering Segment 2.

Points to remember:

- Your teen cannot drive to or from the Segment 2 course without a licensed parent, guardian or designated adult age 21 or older in the front seat.

- Obtain a white *Segment 2 Certificate of Completion* when your teen successfully completes Segment 2. The certificate must be presented to the road skills test examiner before a road test is given.

MICHIGAN DRIVER EDUCATION				B 000021	
SEGMENT 2				CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION	
This is to certify that:					
_____ First		_____ Middle		_____ Last	
Date of Birth		_____ Month Day Year			
has successfully completed Segment 1 of a driver education course in compliance with Section 310e, P.A. 387 of 1996. The instruction was provided by:					
NAME OF SCHOOL			CITY		
DRIVER EDUCATION CODE					
			DATE		
			Driver Education Instructor		
			Authorized School Official		
THIS IS NOT A DRIVER LICENSE. THE STUDENT MUST OBTAIN A LEVEL 2 LICENSE FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO DRIVE A VEHICLE.					

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GETTING READY FOR THE ROAD TEST

Road Skills Testing

Requirements

- Completed Segment 2 of the driver education course
- Completed a minimum 50 hours of supervised driving, which includes a minimum of 10 hours of night driving
- Has had a Level 1 License for a minimum of 180 days

Availability

- Independent testing agency approved by the Secretary of State
- Road test fee required, varies with testing agency

Before your teen driver can apply to take the road skills test, he or she must have successfully completed Segment 2 of the driver education course, received the white *Segment 2 Certificate of Completion* and logged a minimum of 50 hours supervised driving which includes a minimum of 10 hours at night. Road skills tests are provided by independent third-party testing agencies approved by the Secretary of State's office.

The road skills test will consist of two parts—a basic control skills test and an on-road driving test.

Points to remember:

- Review the Michigan Department of State *Road Skills Test Study Guide* with your teen.

- Practice all required driving skills and maneuvers outlined in the *Road Skills Test Study Guide* with your teen. These skills are basic to becoming a competent driver. Failure to practice them can place your teen at a disadvantage at the road skills test.
- Contact an independent third-party testing agency to schedule date, time, and location. Road test fees vary; be sure to ask about the cost. A list of third-party testing agencies is available at any Secretary of State branch office or on the department's Web site (www.Michigan.gov/sos). Your teen's driver education instructor may have additional information about third-party testing agencies in your area. Your telephone book's yellow pages will also list third-party testing agencies.
- Make sure the vehicle your teen drives during the road skills test is safe and that your teen is familiar with its operation. If the vehicle does not meet the equipment and safety standards as described in the *Road Skills Test Study Guide*, it cannot be used for the road skills test.
- Provide the road skills test examiner with the following documents:
 - The white *Segment 2 Certificate of Completion*
 - The driving log documenting the minimum 50 hours of supervised driving
 - The Level 1 License
 - Your valid vehicle registration and proof of insurance certificate (Payment of insurance receipt and insurance premium notice are not acceptable proof.)
- There is a fee for the road skills test. Fees will vary depending on which third-party testing agency you select.
- Be sure to allow at least one hour for the road skills test. You, as a parent or legal guardian, will be required to ride in the vehicle during the road test portion of the basic skills test.
- When your teen passes the road skills test, he or she will receive a *Driver Skills Test Certificate*.
- Should your teen fail to pass the road skills test;
 - You'll receive a road test review explaining the reasons for failure.
 - You'll need to obtain information about having your teen retested.
 - Review the *Road Skills Test Study Guide* with your teen.
 - Continue to supervise your teen's driving emphasizing the correct driving skills and stressing those that were not passed during the road skills test.
 - A retesting fee will be required.

THE LEVEL 2 INTERMEDIATE LICENSE

Level 2 License

Requirements

- Teen is at least 16 years old
- Meet physical and medical licensing standards
- Possessed a Level 1 License for 180 days
- Completed Segment 1 and 2 of an approved driver education program
- Passed a road test and present a skills test certificate
- Completed a minimum of 50 hours of supervised driving time, including 10 hours at night
- Must be violation and suspension free, and have no at-fault crashes during the 90 days prior to applying for Level 2 License
- Have a parent or legal guardian sign the application and certify the minimum 50 hours of behind-the-wheel driving experience.

Availability

- Obtain Level 2 License at a Secretary of State branch office. (A fee is required.)

Restrictions

- Between midnight and 5 a.m., teen must drive with a licensed adult over age 21 unless driving to and from employment.

Parent Option

- Parent/guardian has the option of requesting in writing that the teen driver remain at Level 2 and not automatically advance to Level 3 at age 17. Request must be made at least 30 days before teen's 17th birthday.

The Level 2 Intermediate License has fewer restrictions than the Level 1 License. Under the Level 2 License, teens are permitted to drive unsu-

pervised **except between the hours of midnight and 5 a.m.** when they must have a licensed adult with them. Teens who must drive between midnight and 5 a.m. because of work are not required to have an adult with them. However, they should be able to provide proof that they are traveling directly to or from employment.

It is extremely important to continue to stay involved with your teen driver by emphasizing the importance of a positive attitude and safe driving skills. As your teen gains more experience and enjoys greater freedom behind the wheel, take time to review your *Parent-Teen Safe Driving Contract* with your teen. Continue to stress the importance of safe driving as you determine the rules for using the vehicle, the number of passengers allowed and any other restrictions you set based on your teen's maturity and driving skill.

Points to remember:

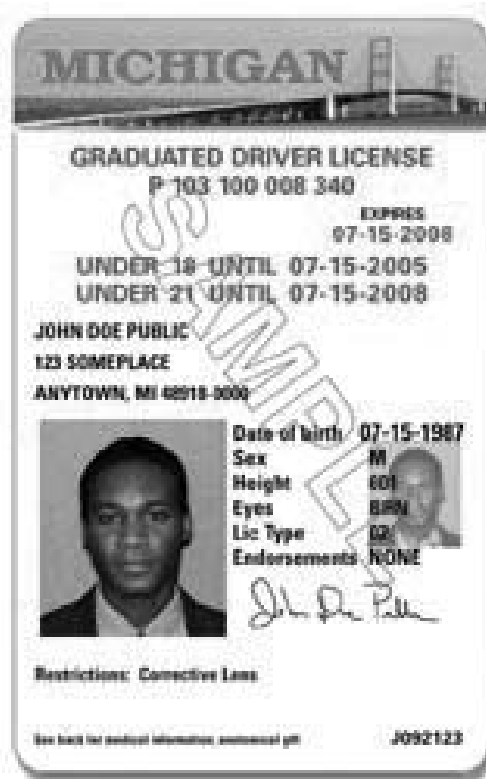
- To obtain a Level 2 License your teen must:
 - Be at least 16 years old.
 - Have parental permission.
 - Have completed Segment 1 and Segment 2 of the driver education course.
 - Have completed a minimum of 50 hours of behind-the-wheel experience, of which at least 10 hours must include driving at night.
 - Have held a Level 1 License for at least 180 days.
 - Be violation and suspension free, and have no at-fault crashes during the 90 days prior to applying for a Level 2 License.
- Bring the following to the Secretary of State branch office when applying for the Level 2 License:
 - The Level 1 License.
 - The *Road Skills Test Certificate*.
 - Cash, check or money order to pay the fee for the Level 2 License. Secretary of State branch offices do not accept credit cards.
 - A smile. Your teen's photograph will be taken for the Level 2 License.

When your teen applies for a Level 2 License, **you** have the choice of allowing your teen to automatically advance to a Level 3 License when he or she is eligible or delaying the Level 3 License until **you** decide your teen is ready to have full driving privileges with no restrictions.

If you **do not** want your teen to automatically advance to a Level 3 License, you must complete the *Parent/Guardian Request to Continue Minor's Level 2 Intermediate License form*. This form was included with the information you received at the time you and your teen applied for the Level 2 License at the Secretary of State branch office. **This form must be completed and mailed 30 days before your teen's 17th birthday.** Your teen will continue to drive under the Level 2 restrictions until you decide your teen is ready for a Level 3 License or until your teen turns 18 years old. GDL ends for teens when they turn 18.

Once the Level 2 License is issued, you may decide to restrict your teen's Level 2 to a Level 1 License. You may also cancel the Level 2 License if you believe your teen is not ready for a Level 2 License. You will need to go to a Secretary of State branch office, surrender your teen's license and sign a form to restrict or cancel the license.

Once you restrict or cancel a license, you may decide to reinstate it or lift the restrictions. To do so, you will need to go to a Secretary of State branch office and process a new application. You will be required to pay a fee and your teen's photograph will need to be retaken.



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THE FINAL STAGE—GAINING FULL DRIVING PRIVILEGES AT LEVEL 3

Level 3 License

Requirements

- Teen is at least 17 years old
- Held Level 2 License for 180 days
- **Must be violation and suspension free, and have no at-fault crashes for 12 consecutive months prior to applying for the Level 3 License**

Availability

- With parent/guardian approval at Level 2, the Level 3 License is automatically mailed to teen
- If approval was not given, parent/guardian and teen must go to a Secretary of State branch office

Restrictions

- No fee is required
- No state-imposed license restrictions
- Parent or guardian may restrict or cancel the license

Although the Level 3 License carries no state-imposed restrictions, you may **continue to place limits** you feel necessary on your teen's driving privileges. Your teen is eligible for a Level 3 License if he or she is at least 17 years old, has held a Level 2 License for at least 180 days and has been crash and violation free during the prior twelve months.

You do not have to go to a Secretary of State branch office to obtain a Level 3 License. Your teen will automatically progress to a Level 3 License when he or she meets the Level 3 criteria shown above. The Level 3 License will be mailed to your teen's address on file with the Secretary of State.

Once the Level 3 License is issued, you may decide to restrict it to a Level 2 or Level 1 License. You may also cancel the Level 3 License if you believe your teen is not ready for restricted or unrestricted driving privileges. You will need to go to a Secretary of State branch office, surrender your teen's license and sign a form to restrict or cancel the license.

Points to remember:

- Discuss your *Parent-Teen Safe Driving Contract* with your teen. You have the right to restrict your teen's driving activities when necessary.
- Your teen will automatically advance to a Level 3 License unless you inform the Secretary of State otherwise.
- You may restrict or cancel your teen's Level 3 License.
- GDL ends for teens when they turn 18, no matter what licensing level they have achieved.
- Teens exiting GDL may still be subject to probationary requirements. Probation does not automatically end at age 18. (See *A Word About The Michigan Department Of State Probationary License Program*, page 21).



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COACHING YOUR TEEN

Behind-The-Wheel Tips

Most teens view a driver license as a “rite of passage” to adulthood and freedom, and eagerly await the time when they can legally drive. Statistics reveal that teens as a group are more likely to be involved in a traffic crash. For example, teens between the ages of 16 and 19 are **four times** as likely as other drivers to be involved in traffic crashes. It’s not a teen’s age that’s the problem. It’s their inexperience behind the wheel, poor judgment, belief in their own invincibility, and peer pressure that lead to risky driving behaviors and increased number of crashes.

As the parent or guardian of a teen in GDL, you have an important role in determining the type of driver your teen will become. Your coaching will work to reinforce the basic skills, driving strategies and attitudes taught in driver education.

The role model you present as a driver is especially important. Once you are aware of your own driving habits, you’ll be in a better position to coach your teen driver. Take a moment to assess your own driving behavior. Do you:

- Make sure everyone in the vehicle wears a safety belt? It is the law.
- Know your car, especially the controls and safety devices?
- Always drive defensively?
- Control emotions during all driving experiences?
- Obey all traffic laws?

Your coaching responsibility begins when your teen enrolls in Segment 1 of the driver education course and extends throughout the graduated licensing process. With young, inexperienced drivers, it is important to begin slowly and gradually introduce more difficult maneuvers and traffic situations. Your first coaching efforts with your teen should be in low-risk areas, such as a large parking lot, where your teen can practice and demonstrate basic skills such as starting, stopping, backing, turning and parking.

Once your teen is comfortable handling the above basic skills, you can begin increasing the level of difficulty by allowing him or her to drive on roads with light traffic. Look for situations that will give your teen experience with various types of intersections, left- and right-hand turns, one-way streets, and single and multiple lane roads.

As your teen’s skill develops with moderate traffic situations, you

can begin to introduce more difficult situations such as driving during rush hour and on the freeway. Other high-risk driving conditions which your teen will need to concentrate on include driving at night and in bad weather.

Keep the following points in mind as you coach your teen:

- Make sure everyone in the vehicle is wearing a safety belt. It is the law. Make sure your teen understands, that as a driver, it is his or her responsibility to make sure everyone is safely buckled up.
- Continue to monitor your teen's exposure to danger. Until your teen gains more experience and confidence, limit the amount of driving done at night, in an unfamiliar vehicle, with teen passengers, in bad weather or at rush hour.
- Expect your teen driver to make some mistakes while driving. Use these experiences to help reinforce safe driving techniques.
- Speeding is the most common violation made by teen drivers and a major contributor to traffic crashes. Make sure your teen understands the importance of always obeying the speed limit and driving at a speed that is correct for the driving conditions.
- It's important for young drivers to learn to search the "big picture" on the road, in front of and behind the vehicle—to look for other vehicles, pedestrians, and bicyclists. Teach your teen to be alert for the unexpected when driving. **And as your teen's coach, you need to be continually scanning ahead for dangers, too.**
- Nighttime driving poses a special risk to teens because one-third of teen fatal traffic crashes occur at night. Make sure your teen knows how to safely drive in spite of the reduced visibility and glare from oncoming and following traffic. **If needed, extend the amount of supervised nighttime driving your teen does until you feel he or she is ready to drive at night alone.**
- Make sure your teen understands how to correctly operate the braking system of the vehicle he or she is driving. Vehicles equipped with anti-lock braking systems (ABS) require different emergency braking procedures than those without ABS.
- Misinterpreting a road sign leads to trouble. The shape, color and placement of words on signs all carry meaning. It's important for teens to understand and react to road signs correctly and in a timely fashion.
- Today's roads are full of stressful situations. Help your teen learn to control emotions that lead to aggressive driving and "road rage" at all times.

- It's important to keep focused when driving, especially when additional distractions are present, such as passengers in the vehicle.
- Michigan has a Zero Tolerance Law. It is illegal for anyone under age 21 to drink, possess or buy alcohol. Emphasize that drinking adversely affects driving capabilities, no matter how old or experienced the driver is.
- Research shows that falling asleep behind the wheel contributes to many traffic crashes. Remind your teen to never drive while tired. If your teen feels sleepy while driving, he or she should pull over to a safe spot to nap, or call for help.
- When driving, does your teen:
 - Search well ahead and to the sides?
 - Frequently check the rear view mirror?
 - Avoid driving in other vehicles' blind spots?
 - Follow other vehicles at a safe distance by maintaining a safe following distance of at least four to five seconds?
 - Increase the space cushion and stay away from the 'no-zones' when dealing with large vehicles?
 - Stay in the proper lane, making sure not to crowd vehicles on either side?
 - Come to a full stop at stop signs?
 - Match speed to road, traffic or weather conditions?
 - Signal all driving maneuvers correctly and in a timely manner, such as changing lanes, exiting the roadway, making turns?

As you coach your teen, continue to review the Parent-Teen Safe Driving Contract. If you do not have one, see the sample provided at the back of this booklet. If you believe your teen is not ready to handle certain driving conditions, consider placing restrictions on:

- Number of passengers allowed—none, one, two or more?
- The number of trips
- The length of a trip
- Nighttime driving
- Driving during certain weather or traffic conditions
- Travel along new or unfamiliar routes
- Travel to new or unfamiliar places

YOUR AUTO INSURANCE

- Contact your auto insurance company to verify coverage for your teen driver and ask how to keep premium payments at a minimum.
- Remember, your driving record and your teen's driving record have a major influence on your insurance premium.

CHOOSING A VEHICLE FOR YOUR TEEN

When choosing a vehicle for your teen, consider the following:

- What safety features does the vehicle have? Older models may lack advanced features such as air bags, anti-lock brakes, or traction control.
- The size and weight of the vehicle. Generally, larger, heavier vehicles are safer in crashes than small cars.
- Does your teen's driving skill and maturity match the intended vehicle? Fast and powerful vehicles can quickly overpower an inexperienced driver caught in the lure of speed and open road. Resist the temptation to give your teen a "fast" car.

PROBATION:

A Word About the Michigan Department of State Probationary License Program

All newly licensed first-time drivers in Michigan are placed on probation for at least 3 years. The probationary licensing program is a way for the Secretary of State's Office to monitor the driving performance of new drivers. Probation and GDL are independent programs that work together to control a teen's driving risk.

Teen drivers under probation with tickets or crashes on their records may face personal reviews called driver assessment reexaminations. These reexaminations may cause a teen's license to be restricted, suspended, or both. Should this occur, a teen's advancement to the next level of GDL will be delayed.

During the last 10 months of probation, tickets, at-fault crashes or license suspensions will extend the probationary period until the driver can complete 10 months of consecutive, violation-free driving.

Young drivers with unsatisfactory driving records will continue to be under probation until they prove themselves safe and competent drivers, even if they are no longer in GDL.

WHAT IS ZERO TOLERANCE?

Simply stated, Zero Tolerance means **any alcohol involvement by teens can result in the loss of their driver license**. It is illegal for a teen to simply possess an alcoholic beverage. The beverage need not be opened to cause a minor to lose his or her driving privileges. Even an unopened bottle of alcohol found in a motor vehicle operated by a teen can result in a license suspension—even if the teen doesn't know it's there. Penalties for a first offense include:

- Up to a 1-year license suspension
- Fines up to \$450
- Required participation in community service
- Points on the teen's driving record
- Payment of a \$125 license reinstatement fee

Additionally, there will be attorney fees to pay and automobile insurance premiums may increase.

Why is the law so tough on teens? Because the risk is so great that a teen driver will be involved in a crash. Mixing the inexperience of a teen driver with alcohol can be deadly.

Please note that a teen driver's Zero Tolerance conviction may also count as an alcohol offense under Michigan's Repeat Offender laws. One Zero Tolerance conviction is a misdemeanor carrying a 30-day driver license restriction. Two Zero Tolerance convictions not in combination with any other alcohol offenses results in a 90-day driver license suspension. A Zero Tolerance conviction in combination with another alcohol offense within 7 years, or in combination with 2 other alcohol offenses within 10 years, results in a driver license revocation with no hardship appeal. For more information about Repeat Offender laws, visit the Michigan Department of State Web site and review the Give 'Em the Boot Repeat Offender pamphlet.

RESOURCE MATERIALS

Coaching Your Teen

The following resources may help you as you coach your teen:

Your teen's driver education textbook
and driver education instructor

Road Skills Test Study Guide

Available at any Secretary of State branch office

AAA National driver's education resource materials

Network of Employers for Traffic Safety's *The Novice Driver's Road Map*

Contact: Office of Highway Safety Planning at 517/333-5322

*(The Novice Driver's Road Map provides adult coaches with
a series of practice sessions for teen drivers.)*

Traffic Safety Web Sites:

AAA Foundation For Traffic Safety

www.aaafoundation.org

AAA Michigan

www.autoclubgroup.com/michigan

Allstate Insurance

www.allstate.com

American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators

www.aamva.net

Insurance Institute for Highway Safety

www.hwysafety.org

Michigan Department of Education

www.michigan.gov/mde

Michigan Department of State

www.Michigan.gov/sos

Michigan Driver and Traffic Safety Education Association

www.adtsea.iup.edu/michigan

Mothers Against Drunk Driving

www.madd.org

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

www.nhtsa.dot.gov

continued next page

Network of Employers for Traffic Safety

www.trafficsafety.org

Office of Highway Safety Planning

www.michigan.gov/msp

Operation Lifesaver

www.oli.org

Traffic Safety Association of Michigan

www.tsamichigan.org

Michigan's Graduated Driver Licensing: A Guide for Parents was produced in cooperation with the following agencies:

- AAA Michigan
- Michigan Department of Education
- Michigan Department of State
- Michigan Department of State Police, Office of Highway Safety Planning
- Michigan Driver & Traffic Safety Education Association
- Traffic Safety Association of Michigan

PARENT-TEEN SAFE DRIVING CONTRACT

I, _____, agree to the following: I will always wear my safety belt and insist passengers wear theirs while I am driving. I will also abide by the terms of my restricted license and will always use my best judgment when driving without supervision.

I WILL BE EXPECTED AND REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH THE FOLLOWING RULES:

Consequences: (either loss or limit of privileges)

- ✓ I will provide destination and time of return
- ✓ Safety belts will be fastened at all times
- ✓ Every passenger must wear a safety belt
- ✓ No use of drugs or alcohol
- ✓ I may not lend the vehicle or allow others to drive it
- ✓ I will call if more than 30 minutes late
- ✓ Drive at safe speeds—at or below speed limit
- ✓ Obey traffic laws
- ✓ Only take rides from sober drivers
- ✓ Other:

THE FOLLOWING PRIVILEGES ARE AGREED UPON:

(this section to be periodically updated; passengers may or may not be under 21 years of age)

- ☐ daylight driving, no passengers
- ☐ daylight driving, 1 passenger
- ☐ daylight driving, ___ passengers
- ☐ all weather/road conditions
- ☐ good weather/road conditions
- ☐ nighttime driving, no passengers
- ☐ nighttime driving, 1 passenger
- ☐ nighttime driving, ___ passengers
- ☐ no eating or cell phone use
- ☐ other: _____
- ☐ other: _____
- ☐ other: _____

Date

Teen's signature

Parent's signature

**YOU ARE LEGALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR ACTIONS AS A DRIVER.
AS VEHICLE OWNERS, WE ARE LEGALLY LIABLE
FOR DAMAGES DONE BY YOU AS A DRIVER.**

HOW TEENS ARE INVOLVED IN CRASHES...

- The largest number of fatal crashes involving teen drivers are single-vehicle crashes, often with passengers in the vehicle who may cause distractions for the driver.
- Many teen crashes involve rolling the vehicle after straying onto the shoulder of the road or when swerving to miss an obstacle.
- Teen drivers are often involved in collisions with ditches and trees.
- Teen driver crashes are often the result of driving too fast.
- Teens are most likely to be involved in a fatal crash between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 3:00 a.m.
- Teens have a high rate of crashes on county and city roads.
- Teen drivers are involved in more crashes on Friday, Saturday and Sunday than any other days of the week.

This information is available from the Michigan Traffic Crash Facts book and can be found on the Office of Highway Safety Planning's Web site at www.michigan.gov/msp

MICHIGAN'S GRADUATED LICENSE SYSTEM

Driver Education Segment 1		Preparation for Driver Education Segment 2	Driver Education Segment 2	Preparation for Road Test	Road Test	Level 2 License	Level 3 License
Minimum age of 14 years and 8 months	No fee	Complete at least 30 hours of the required driving time, including 2 hours of the required 10 hours of night driving, with a licensed parent, legal guardian or designated adult age 21 or older.	6 hours of classroom	Complete what remains of the required 50 hours behind the wheel; including what remains of the 10 hours required for night driving	Fee will vary	Fee required	No fee
24 hours of classroom	14 years, 9 months of age	50 hours of driving time, including 2 hours of the required 10 hours of night driving, with a licensed parent, legal guardian or designated adult age 21 or older.	Possible written exam	50 hours behind the wheel; including what remains of the 10 hours required for night driving	Minimum of 6 months at Level 1	16 years of age	17 years of age
Vision/health screening	Vision exam	Minimum of 90 days between completion of Segment 1 and enrollment in Segment 2		Review study guides	Vehicle inspection	90 days crash-free violation prior to application for Level 2 license	Minimum of 6 months at Level 2
6 hours behind the wheel	Health standards				Off-roadway test	May drive without supervision except from midnight to 5 a.m. Driving is permitted from midnight to 5 a.m. only if driving to and from employment or with a parent or designated adult age 21 or older	12 consecutive months of violation/crash free driving at Level 1/Level 2 prior to application for Level 3 license
Written exam	Written approval of parents				On-roadway test		Full driving privileges with no restrictions

Minimum of 6 months



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